

XI. Social Services Block Grant

A. Social Services Block Grant

Services funded by the Social Services Block Grant shall be provided directly by the Department of Health and Human Services, its divisions or their local counterparts; or services shall be purchased from public or private providers by contracting in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations governing such purchases.

[10A NCAC 71R .0104]

Every two years North Carolina develops a Social Services Block Grant Plan. It is available for public review and comment before it is submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The current SSBG Plan can be found at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/publications/index.htm>

The North Carolina SSBG Plan requires local match funds for all SSBG funded services:

12.5% Local Match - State In-Home Fund (In-Home Services, including In Home Aide Services, Home Delivered Meals, Housing and Home Improvement Services and Preparation and Delivery of Meals);

25% Local Match – In-Home Services once a county's State In-Home Fund allocation is exhausted; and

25% Local Match - All other SSBG funded services reimbursement is based on the actual cost of a service rather than an established unit rate.

The Department of Health and Human Services is the single designated agency in North Carolina for administering the Social Services Block Grant. All divisions receiving SSBG funding are also charged with administrative responsibilities to assure that SSBG funds are utilized in a manner consistent with the general approach applicable to their other services.

B. SSBG Services Supported by the Social Services Block Grant

Services which may be reimbursed with SSBG funds are:

Adjustment Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired*

Adoption Services*

Adult Placement Services*

Child Care Services*

Children and Adults Needing Mental Health, Developmental Disability and/or Substance Abuse Services

Community Living Services

Day Care Services for Adults

Delinquency Prevention Services

Employment and Training Support Services

Family Planning Services*

Family Preservation Services

Family Support Services

Foster Care Services for Adults*

Foster Care Services for Children*

Health Support Services* (sterilization component is optional)

Home Health Services (includes Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Services and/or Nutrition Care)

Housing and Home Improvement Services

Individual and Family Adjustment Services*

In-Home Aide Services*

In-Home Aide Services for the Blind*

Intensive Family Preservation Services

Personal and Family Counseling

Preparation and Delivery of Meals

Problem Pregnancy Services

Protective Services for Adults*

Protective Services for Children*

Residential Treatment for the Emotionally Disturbed

Respite Care Services

Transportation Services

Youth Services

(* indicates mandated services and are addressed below)

Mandated services shall be made available in each county. All other services specified above shall be considered optional for purposes of the SSBG. [10A NCAC 71R .0101 and .0103]

C. SSBG Requirements

In order for an individual to be eligible to receive services funded under the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), it must be established that (s)he is eligible on the basis of need as specified in the target population for the services requested except that for purposes of providing child care services, transportation services or the federally funded sterilization resource item of health support services, eligibility must also be determined on the basis of his/her income maintenance or income eligible status. [10A NCAC 71R .0501]

Services Without Regard to Income

Individuals are eligible for the following services on the basis of need for the service and without regard to their income:

Adjustment Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired;

Adoption Services;

Adult Placement Services;

Children and Adults Needing Mental Health, Developmental Disability and/or Substance Abuse Services;

Child Care Services, when needed to support child protective services, child welfare services and for children receiving foster care services;

Community Living Services;

Day Care Services for Adults;

Delinquency Prevention Services;

Employment and Training Support Services;

Family Planning Services;

Family Preservation Services;

Family Support Services;

Foster Care Services for Adults;

Foster Care Services for Children;

Health Support (excluding the optional voluntary sterilization component);

Home Health Services (including Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Services and Nutrition Care);

Housing and Home Improvement Services;

Individual and Family Adjustment Services;

In-Home Aide Services;

In-Home Aide Services for the Blind;
Intensive Family Preservation Services;
Personal and Family Counseling
Preparation and Delivery of Meals;
Problem Pregnancy Services;
Protective Services for Adults;
Protective Services for Children;
Residential Treatment for the Emotionally Disturbed;
Respite Care Services;
Transportation Services provided by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs;
and Youth Services.

Documentation of need and how the individual meets the target population is required in the service record.

Services With Regard to Income

The delivery of the following SSBG services are restricted to individuals who are eligible based on either income maintenance status or income eligible status:

Child Care Services,
Transportation Services, or
The Federally Funded Sterilization Resource Item of Health Support Services

For an individual to be eligible on the basis of income maintenance status, it must be established that the individual is:

a current applicant/recipient of Work First Family Assistance, Benefit Diversion or Work First Services for Low Income Families (below 200% of Federal poverty level) as defined in G.S. 108A-24; or a person whose needs were taken into account in determining the needs of Work First Family Assistance recipients;

a current recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

an individual who receives regular Optional State Supplementation payments from the State, known as State/County Special Assistance for Adults in North Carolina; or

a child with respect to whom foster care maintenance payments or adoption assistance payments are made under Public Law 96-272.

An individual whose eligibility is based on income maintenance status is eligible for any service funded under the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) that is available in the county in which he lives. [10A NCAC 71R .0502]

Individuals who are receiving or are eligible to receive certain public assistance payments are considered “categorically eligible” for services provided either with regard to income or without regard to income. These individuals may be approved for any SSBG service regardless of the amount of the public assistance payments, as long as the need for the service is established for an individual to be categorically eligible for SSBG services, (s)he is receiving or is eligible to receive one of the following incomes:

Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

Work First Family Assistance (WFFA), Benefit Diversion or Work First Services for Low Income Families (below 200% of Federal poverty level);

State/County Special Assistance for Adults in North Carolina; or

Public Law 96-272 Foster Care Maintenance or Adoption Assistance

The amount of the monthly assistance is not relevant to an individual’s eligibility for SSBG services.

Individuals other than those eligible on the basis of income maintenance status may be determined eligible on the basis of that individual’s income unit’s monthly gross income.

To determine income eligibility, it is necessary to determine: the number of individuals who reside in the same household who are financially obligated to one another (the income unit); and the amount of the gross monthly income available to them.

The following are defined as separate income units for purposes of determining eligibility and fees:

Biological or adoptive parents and their minor children;

A minor parent and his or her children;

Each adult, whether related or unrelated, other than spouses;

Children living with adults other than their biological or adoptive parents;

Minors who are emancipated through a court proceeding, marriage or participation in the armed services.

Sources of income which shall be considered for purposes of computing family monthly gross income are:

Gross earned wages or salary (earnings received for work performed as an employee, including wages, salary, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments and bonuses earned, before any deductions are made for taxes, bonds, pensions, union dues);

Adjusted gross income from taxable self-employment income;

Social Security benefits (includes Social Security pension, survivors/ benefits and permanent disability insurance payments);

Dividends; interest (on savings or bonds; income from estates or trusts; royalties; and adjusted gross rental income on houses, stores or other property;

Pensions and annuities paid directly by an employer or union or through an insurance company;

Workers' compensation for injuries incurred at work;

Unemployment insurance benefits;

Alimony (includes direct and indirect payments, such as rent and utility payments);

Child support, direct or indirect;

Pension paid to veterans or survivors of deceased veterans;

On-the-Job (JOT) payments;

Job Training Partnership Act (TAP) payments made to an adult;

AmeriCorps stipend (living allowance);

Armed Forces pay (only the amounts taxable, such as base pay);

Work release payments;

Cherokee Tribal Per Capita Income paid to adult family members;

Work-study payments, if the income is from a program not administered under Title IV of the Higher Education Act or the Bureau of Indians Affairs; and

Recurring cash contributions paid directly to the parent. [10A NCAC 71R .0503]

The service record should document receipt of one of the income types listed above as well as information regarding the individual's need for the service.

The Federal Poverty Guidelines can be accessed at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml#latest>.